



## Our Winners, Finalists, Judges and Sponsors

Learn about our winners' and finalists' impressive efforts in sustainable building! They embody our mission: to support industry's progress toward more holistic sustainable building practices—these are our trailblazers. And a big thank you to our judges and sponsors for their integral contributions.



### Spotlighting Canadian Trailblazers: Celebrating Sustainability Leadership

Now in its second year, the **Maverick Awards** continue to shine a light on forward-thinking leaders who are helping to shape a more sustainable built environment. With entries spanning from British Columbia to Ontario, this year's awards reflect the depth and diversity of sustainable building happening across the country.

With so many exceptional submissions, our judges found themselves deadlocked in the Transformational category—so for 2025, we were thrilled to announce not three, but four winners! Each has made a lasting impact, embodying the spirit the Maverick Awards were created to celebrate.

The Mavericks is a niche program focused on Built Green Canada's key underpinnings: ambassadorship, innovation and transformation.

- The **Ambassador Award** recognizes those on the ground, encouraging and promoting sustainable building. It speaks to our origins in industry engagement and the value of word of mouth.
- The **Innovation Award** recognizes creative ways sustainable building is happening and progressing industry. It's in this spirit that our programs were originally developed and continue to evolve.
- The **Transformational Award** recognizes the impact sustainability practices can have in driving real change. These achievements embody our mission to progress industry.

Part of what sets our awards program apart is its non-traditional approach: instead of culminating in an event, we amplify the achievements of our winners through a comprehensive marketing-communications campaign—helping to share their sustainable building story, while equipping them with assets to support their own promotions. It's about putting a spotlight on our Mavericks!

The Maverick Awards are another step forward in Built Green Canada's mission: to support and progress sustainability practices, recognizing leadership of those going beyond building code.

As part of our membership requirements, builders are required to be part of a professional association. Examples include CHBAs, UDIs, VRBA, construction, environmental, etc. Through their awards programs, these associations do great work to highlight industry achievement over comprehensive award categories—we recognize this important role filled by these valued industry associations, who provide wonderful in-person events.

A huge thank you to our sponsors—those also working to advance sustainable building practices—including title co-sponsors, Jayman BUILT and SkyFire Energy, and category sponsors Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Excel Homes and Alberta Real Estate Foundation.

### A Snapshot of Our 2025 Winners & Finalists

Congratulations to our four winners and six finalists—each one worthy of recognition! From groundbreaking projects to standout contributions across the industry, this year's Mavericks showcase the inspiring work driving meaningful change.

#### Winners:

- Jim Zsiros, J. Zsiros Contracting Ltd. – *Ambassador*
- EVE Park by s2e Technologies Inc. – *Innovation*
- Phoenix House by Best Builders – *Transformational (tie)*
- Spring Creek Mountain Village – *Transformational (tie)*

#### Finalists:

- Dave Krasman, Jayman BUILT – *Ambassador*
- Mike Cole, Sterling Homes Calgary – *Ambassador*
- Carbon Wise – *Innovation*
- Amber Model in Sirocco, Sterling Homes Calgary – *Innovation*
- Core Performance, Jayman BUILT – *Transformational*
- Prominent Homes Ltd. – *Transformational*

## AMBASSADOR MAVERICK

**Jim Zsiros, J. Zsiros Contracting Ltd.**

Jim Zsiros of [J. Zsiros Contracting](#), took home this year's most popular category award—for Ambassadorship—the purpose of which is to recognize those on the ground, promoting and encouraging sustainable building: those ambassadors driving real change towards the progression of industry.



Jim has worked in the construction industry since the early 1990s and is the founder and owner of J. Zsiros Contracting Ltd—a custom home builder and renovator in Comox Valley specializing in green building practices. As an early adopter of the BUILT GREEN® program in British Columbia, going back to 2008, Jim demonstrates leadership and a hands-on approach to advocacy. He actively participates in industry

committees and regularly promotes green building practices, creating a ripple effect that has elevated green building standards—particularly Built Green—across the region.

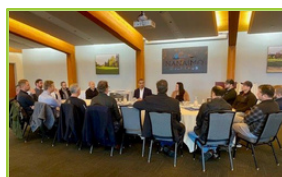
Committed to education and acting on the importance of word-of-mouth, he shares his expertise with employees, subcontractors, trades, manufacturers, builders, students, and government, emphasizing the benefits of sustainable construction. Jim maintains a firm belief that proactive promotion of- and use of- Built Green methods will benefit the building industry and consumers, while concurrently lowering the environmental impacts of building homes. Though a seasoned builder, Jim recognizes that approaches to sustainable building are continually evolving, which is another area Built Green's programs help him stay ahead of the curve.

Global warming, climate change and unsustainable material consumption concerns originally motivated Jim to join Built Green Canada. He was interested in the organization's advocacy for using environmentally friendly products, as well as reducing energy consumption. It has been 17 years that he's been building Built Green high-performing homes (certified at BUILT GREEN® Platinum / Net Zero Energy+), and while much has changed in the industry since he began, Jim recognizes that there remains a somewhat myopic focus on energy alone. His foresight back then—in recognizing sustainable building practices must go beyond energy—is admirable.



Jim's key messages relating to the benefits of high-performance homes include: the improvement of indoor air quality; lower energy costs / consumption over time, the use of environmentally-friendly products, materials and energy sources; creating a smaller carbon footprint than a typical home build; increasing home durability; consumption of fewer resources at construction and throughout the life of the house; and rebate eligibility through third-party certification.

But before the build has even happened, Jim has had to work hard to educate and push trades, suppliers, and manufacturers to do better. Being a maverick can be hard, given limited training available for the trades and encouraging manufacturers to stock more environmentally friendly product. This has taken time and effort, and this work isn't finished yet.



Jim says the Built Green programs underpin his message, both from a marketing perspective, as well as an educational perspective, as the program's checklist outlines various pathways to achieve certification. He is a small, but mighty builder, passionate about improving things in the built environment who has touched many lives through his commitment to better building practices and the value of third-party certification.

“Underlying all of this is my desire to make things better—for my sons and the generations to come: to lead by example. I've seen the ripple effect of walking my talk, and watched how simple conversations have created far-reaching positive outcomes with various audience segments.”

- President, Jim Zsiros of J. Zsiros Contracting Ltd.

Jim recognizes there is a perception that sustainable building is complicated, so he shows the homebuyer select green features and what their benefits are. In this way, he's able to illustrate in person—he's speaking with and educating them, rather than talking at them. Jim enthusiastically takes on the role of educator on the sustainable building methods he follows. He loves to help others learn, and by the time the build is complete, the homeowner has a greater understanding of sustainable building and the bragging rights that go with it.

This approach underpins what and how he communicates with staff, one-on-one with other builders, and through the committees and boards on which he sits (including as President of CHBA Vancouver Island and on CHBA BC's Board of



Directors), trades and manufacturers, as well as municipal and provincial government. Beyond these audiences, Jim has also reached students through his work with Habitat for Humanity, which has led to the opportunity to work with and educate students from North Island College onsite with green building methods, materials and low-impact practices in the built environment.

After attending the Net Zero Conference Summit in 2019, he was saddened to learn that new home construction was the number one contributor to global warming. This reinforced his quest to build the most sustainable homes possible. It further strengthened his commitment to building and certifying with Built Green, which he felt could help reduce these effects and help him educate other builders and his clients.

“We are so impressed with Jim's dedication to embracing and educating on sustainability practices,” says Jenifer Christenson, chief executive officer at Built Green Canada.

“This is an individual with a strong vision of better building, who uses his voice to advance not only his own work, but the industry as a whole—he is one of our trailblazers, embodying our mission to progress industry toward more holistic sustainable building practices.”



J. Zsiros Contracting is an award-winning custom home builder and renovator on Vancouver Island. They combine old-fashioned craftsmanship and dedication to detail with the latest energy-saving technologies, working to stay a step ahead with advanced knowledge and experience in green energy building, and in the latest developments and innovations in the construction industry. [Read more.](#)



## INNOVATION MAVERICK

### *EVE Park by s2e Technologies Inc.*

Out of entries from British Columbia to Ontario, the Built Green team was keen to see what new processes and solutions would be unveiled through the innovation award submissions. It would be s2e Technologies' **EVE Park** community awarded the Innovation Maverick. Its purpose is to recognize creative ways sustainable building is happening and progressing industry: those with a new approach that challenges status quo.

This project is a residential development designed for net zero emissions, integrating renewable energy technologies, and planned around community and shared space. It rethinks the paradigm of suburban living by removing driveways and garages to create pedestrian-friendly outdoor spaces—including parks, gardens, and trails. Each building, shaped like a helix, features a pair of rotary smart parking towers to store vehicles and save land. The towers are equipped for EV charging. The development also features an EV car share program. And the project's 42 units include energy-efficient appliances, ERVs for filtered air, and custom millwork. A rooftop solar array generates energy equivalent to the annual consumption of the homes.



This community was named by **CNN as one of the 10 projects of 2024 to shape the world**. It's working through certification in the BUILT GREEN® Communities program, and as part of this, two BUILT GREEN® High Density projects already completed at Platinum level certification in 2024.

EVE Park started as a concept that turned into their tagline: "Live in a Park, not a Parking Lot." Their designers drew upon a rotational parking technology, so that land not dedicated to the buildings could be used for green space. This yielded a gain in efficiency of land use and reduced their parking footprint by 85%. In moving vehicles into towers, space was freed up for landscaping, including an "edible landscape" consisting of fruit trees / teas and more. Less surface parking means heat island effects are reduced. Ground-water management is improved. Traffic lanes are simplified. And EV charging is accommodated.



s2e Technologies makes EV charging available for every car, while offering residents an opportunity to participate in an EV car share: making it easy for residents to switch to electric driving and to replace their second car with a car-share program. While one third of the average Canadian's impact on the environment comes from their home, the second third is from their transportation choices. EV and car sharing has a huge impact!<sup>1</sup>

Plus, s2e has a micro-utility, which they used to attract third-party money to fund the solar array and mechanical upgrades. This reduced the purchase price of the homes and provided a maintenance partner to make it easy for buyers to keep the project running efficiently in the future, while renewable net-zero energy provides insurance against rising energy costs.



These innovations address fundamental human needs for community and nature while anticipating changing transportation and energy paradigms. As this project demonstrates, sustainable community development doesn't require reinventing the wheel, but rather the thoughtful integration of existing solutions that prioritize both environmental stewardship and quality of life.

“We've discovered that true sustainability extends beyond energy efficiency to encompass how people move, connect and experience their living environment. By integrating transportation solutions directly into our design—from the innovative rotational parking towers to our EV car sharing program—we've demonstrated that mobility and residential planning can be combined to create truly forward-thinking communities.”

- Project Manager, Ashley Hammerbacher at EVE Park

From the outset, the s2e team believed that designing for comfort and human experience must be central, not peripheral, to sustainability efforts. When they prioritized pedestrian-friendly spaces, natural landscapes, and thoughtful amenities, they sought to create a model for housing where sustainability became a normal part of daily life.



"We applaud s2e Technologies' bold leadership and creativity in advancing sustainable building," says Chief Executive Officer at Built Green Canada, Jenifer Christenson. "This is a developer addressing renewable energy solutions and decarbonization, while prioritizing community and nature, finding innovative solutions in the process—they're one of our trailblazers, whose work helps to progress industry toward more holistic sustainable building practices: the very mission of our organization."

Founded in 2006, s2e Technologies operates out of St. Jacobs, Ontario, specializing in developing and investing in communities with cost-efficient sustainable energy solutions. They offer services in net-zero community design, energy generation through solar and microgrids, and sustainable mobility solutions. As part of this, they seek like-minded, long-term partnerships with investors, developers, technology providers, and government to advance environmental sustainability through market-based solutions to build a better future.

[Read more.](#)



A rendering of the proposed completed EVE Park community.

<sup>1</sup> Canadian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Attributable to Households, 2018

## TRANSFORMATIONAL MAVERICK

### Phoenix House by Best Builders

This year, the judges were deadlocked, and this distinction would go to two builders: one in B.C. and one in Alberta. One of these awards went to Best Builders' **Phoenix House** rebuild in Abbotsford, B.C. Following a devastating fire, this home became a remarkable rebuild setting a new benchmark for low-carbon renovations, while addressing resilience and holistic sustainability in a multi-generational home—it's also Canada's first Zero Carbon certified (Living Building Institute), BUILT GREEN® Net Zero Energy+ home, and it won the 2024 B.C. Embodied Carbon Award! Meanwhile, it's involved in multiple local and international studies, so others can learn from it.



Phoenix House showcases how thoughtful design, innovative materials and strategic collaboration can redefine sustainable residential construction, providing a model for low-carbon living while inspiring industry. From the outset, the

homeowners were committed to creating a fossil-free home, prioritizing sustainability and energy resilience. To support this vision, renewable energy through solar panels was integrated, ensuring long-term energy stability while reducing utility costs. Additionally, tailored mechanical systems, including heat pumps and two drain water heat recovery systems were installed to maximize energy efficiency, the latter capturing and reusing heat from wastewater. To further enhance resilience, the team is exploring the installation of a load management system (providing electrical code updates) with battery storage, providing backup power and optimizing energy use for greater reliability in the years to come.



The project also achieved significant embodied carbon reductions through innovative strategies: using a lean design on the existing foundation slab and footings (eliminating 16,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e), using cellulose and hemp insulation materials and incorporating

reclaimed framing lumber and siding. A creative 10% reduction in glazing area lowered embodied carbon by 660 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e, while organic insulation materials, including cellulose and hemp, sequestered over 12,000 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e.

Gas-free operation and high-performance ventilation systems play a critical role in improving indoor air quality, directly supporting occupant health. By eliminating combustion-based pollutants and ensuring a constant supply of fresh, filtered air, these systems create a healthier living environment with reduced allergens and indoor contaminants.

Meanwhile, the home is thoughtfully designed for long-term adaptability, allowing it to evolve with the changing needs of the multi-generational family. With flexible spaces that can accommodate different life stages and allow for aging in place, this design approach ensures that the homeowners can comfortably live in the house for years, if not generations, to come.

“Being a carpenter first and watching all this material go to waste has always been tough. I have always believed in a circular economy, and now I have a project where I can teach others that this works, and it's good for the environment. It's been a great experience to learn and share my findings with my apprentices / carpenters and my two sons. Those who dare win.”

- Owner & President, Todd Best of Best Builders

To enable a unified vision, there was early collaboration among stakeholders, including the builder, the Energy and Carbon Advisor (Carbon Wise), the Architect (NBA), the interior designers (Form Collective), and the homeowners, supported by rigorous Cradle-to-Grave Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) to guide design and material choices.

Looking ahead, **Best Builders** hopes to see industry embrace more collaborative approaches, recognizing that sustainable building practices are not only possible but necessary. Low-carbon materials are not something to be feared. They are a critical tool in reducing our environmental impact, and with the right mindset, they can become the new standard rather than the exception. By sharing the lessons from Phoenix House, their team aims to inspire more industry professionals to take action, proving that sustainable, high-performance homes are within reach for everyone.

It was Best Builders' goal to create a legacy home for the family as well as a blueprint for other homeowners, builders and government agencies. They hope the impact of demonstrating how building an extreme efficiency / carbon-neutral home can have a long-lasting impact on the reduction of limited energy resources. The home will be involved in multiple local and international studies, ranging from multi-year Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) case study for overheating and wildfire smoke evaluation as well as IEA EBC Annex 89: Ways to Implement Net-Zero- Whole-Life Carbon Building, which runs under the auspices of the International Energy Agency, Energy in Building and Community program (IEA EBC).



Recognizing the importance of sharing this journey, the homeowners have taken the initiative to document the entire process, creating a documentary that will offer valuable insights into the challenges and successes of building better. In addition, Carbon Wise is

preparing a detailed case study to be shared with various organizations, further amplifying the project's impact. The team has already presented Phoenix House at industry-leading events such as the Home Show, BUILDEX and the Passive House Accelerator, fostering important discussions around the future of sustainable construction.

“Best Builders has went beyond restoring a structure to creating a pioneering example of low-carbon, high-performance residential construction through strategic and comprehensive solutions—we're thrilled to know our programs helped guide this transformation,” says Jenifer Christenson, chief executive officer at Built Green Canada. “This trailblazer has embodied our mission: to progress industry toward more holistic sustainable building practices.”



A many-time award-winning company, Best Builders has a Red Seal-certified team that takes on custom home, condo and home renovation projects. They have been building thoughtful solutions since 1995 and serve Metro Vancouver, South Delta, South Surrey

and White Rock. Owner, Todd Best, grew up surrounded by building models, as his father was a master architect and founder of Best Builders. Todd entered the homebuilding industry with a simple mission: to build homes of exceptionally high quality, and to provide the kind of service his clients would remember as an experience. [Read more.](#)



## TRANSFORMATIONAL MAVERICK

### Spring Creek Mountain Village

This year's Transformational Award went to two builders—one in Alberta and one in B.C. The purpose of this award is to recognize the impact that sustainability practices can have in driving real change and enabling fundamental progress. One of the awards went to [Spring Creek Mountain Village](#) in Canmore, Alberta.



Originally a dairy farm in the 1920s then a mobile home park in the mid- and late-1900s, this 28-hectare redevelopment has transformed into an impressive multi-phase community largely fueled by geo-exchange, which has prioritized performance, walkability, green space, and local businesses—embracing social, environmental and economic sustainability: a community certified BUILT GREEN® Platinum.

So far, this redevelopment has earned 65 BUILT GREEN® certifications: for Single Family (53), High Density (10 with 516 units), and Community – Phase 1 & 2 (2), going back to 2008. They've also been involved in two pilot programs through Built Green (Multi-Family & Community). These programs have acted as a guide across various pillars of sustainable building, not just energy performance, helping them see more pathways towards their goal of being as sustainable as possible—while verification measures help them both prove their gains and see where they're falling short and need to tighten their processes, encouraging continuous improvements.

Home to commercial, single- and multi-family housing, this community is designed for all stages of life. This includes special housing designed for active senior living and aging in place; alongside live/work condominiums that allow owners to operate street-front shops connected to their homes; a luxury hotel and conference centre with a living roof; and affordable housing: five per cent is offered at half price, as part of Canmore's Vital Homes Program, helping staff and previous residents continue to live there. With multiple businesses, this community is also one of the largest employers in the Bow Valley.

Spring Creek includes extensive renewable energy utilization with geo-exchange systems and solar—working towards net zero. They estimate that, on an annual basis, the geo-exchange heating and cooling system eliminates 6,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions and will eliminate minimum 10,000 tons per year using geo-exchange with clean electricity instead of natural gas.



As one of the first in Alberta to adopt this clean energy source, when they started with geothermal, there was a learning curve to master, but it's since become their standard. Owner, Frank Kernick, learned about this renewable, sub-surface energy source through his training as a mechanical engineer. He applied it to his own home and a community recreation centre in Invermere, B.C. before incorporating it into the Spring Creek development. At that time, there was an exorbitant increase in the cost of propane, plus, Frank was always looking for ways to deliver on his environmental commitment, so he took the leap. In most cases, at that time, the cost to set up geothermal in residential application was around \$20,000 more per home than conventional methods. But with practice, they now use geo-exchange at approximately equal cost to traditional methods!

While they've done considerable work on their energy systems, Spring Creek also recognizes that sustainable living isn't just about energy performance, but also healthy, active lifestyles, social sustainability and economic benefits.

To start, this community has an impressive Walkscore of over 90. Through a joint effort with the Town of Canmore, they included the first "complete street", an approach to planning that more safely and conveniently accommodates vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic (compared to a traditional vehicle-first approach). This is one of several ways they've worked with the municipality—and have included thoughtful designs like their irrigation system that uses only ground water, so they do not pull from the municipal water supply.



The development is encircled by two pristine mountain-fed creeks, and within this, they have done extensive greenspace preservation, resulting in greater biodiversity than prior to construction. Their green space requirements far exceed those of Canmore Municipal and Environmental reserve standards—which are governed by the Municipal Government Act and guide land use in planning and development, protecting natural features and public spaces. Meanwhile, they have created a beautiful trail system, complete with bridges over the encircling streams, providing pedestrian and bicycle throughout their community and with access to the town, including to schools, employment, public transit, entertainment, healthcare and parks.

A key social feature is Spring Creek's focus on enabling an active lifestyle—beyond their trail system and bike storage and maintenance, they offer state-of-the-art fitness equipment to enable residents of any age to take control of their physical wellbeing. However, they have a special focus on seniors, inviting destination retirement amidst the natural splendor of Canmore. Their Origin at Spring Creek provides seniors with the care they need to continue living full and active lifestyles—while aging in place with assisted and independent living, as well as memory and respite care. They also offer guided activities, including walks, hikes and snowshoeing.



Meanwhile, they've prioritized local businesses and food availability, as one of the largest employers of Bow Valley that includes shops with local produce and artisan wares. And affordability remains critical, with five per cent offered as affordable housing. All this, while giving back to the community through their donations program, which, in 2025 alone, contributed close to \$100,000 to their community.

“ Spring Creek is a nod to my parents, grandparents, as well as Canmore itself. It's meant to stand as a legacy for the town where I grew up and to contribute to a more sustainable future for my grandchildren. ”

- Owner, Frank Kernick of Spring Creek Mountain Village

Recognizing gathering spaces as critical to social wellness, Spring Creek has created numerous such spaces, one of which is also a piece of history! Canmore has a unique mining heritage, which Spring Creek has preserved through replication of the original Canmore Opera House (built in 1898). This is about honouring the past, creating community, as well as enhancing health and wellness, with ongoing activities hosted here. [Read more.](#)

*The Ambassador Award was this year's most popular category—the purpose being to recognize those on the ground, promoting and encouraging sustainable building; those ambassadors driving change towards the progression of industry. This award speaks to Built Green's origins in industry engagement and the value of word of mouth—internally and externally.*

### Finalist: Dave Krasman, Jayman BUILT

Dave has been with the company for 23 years, leading the corporate purchasing division since 2014. With a professional Supply Chain Management designation (SCMP) and a diploma in Architectural Technology (AT), Dave leverages his expertise to maximize Jayman BUILT's buying power, with an eye to holistic sustainability.



Over the last decade, as his primary role, Dave spearheaded Jayman's energy efficiency initiatives, including the introduction of Core Performance—energy-efficient inclusions now standard in every single-family home they build—which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and annual energy costs. Its standard energy-efficient features include 10 solar panels, a 96% high-efficiency two-stage furnace, an active heat recovery ventilator, a tankless hot water heater, foundation wrap, triple-pane R-6 windows, and a UV light air purification system. These features save homeowners up to \$582 annually on energy costs and prevent 5.09 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. Jayman's homes are 37% more efficient than the Alberta Building Code.

Meanwhile, they promote water conservation with low-flow fixtures that save 84 million litres of water, and their building practices and materials have contributed to recycling 40,000 metric tonnes of waste material that would otherwise have gone to a landfill—important aspects of Built Green's programs.



With solar energy generation close to his heart, Dave played a key role in adding a 10-panel solar system to every home and advancing Jayman's Path to Net Zero and the introduction of Jayman's first net zero certified home. As Jayman's go-to expert for solar power, Dave takes great pride in their achievement as the builder of the largest residential solar system in Canada. With 700-800 homes built annually, each with 10 solar panels, since 2019, Jayman has installed over 10 megawatts of solar power across 4,000 homes in Alberta, saving over 16,501 metric tonnes of carbon emissions. If the panels were in one location as a solar farm, they would cover 40 acres—significantly contributing to Alberta's electrical grid and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024 alone, this system reduced greenhouse gas emissions by over 5,776 tonnes, with numbers continuing to grow each year. To date, Jayman has built 34 Net Zero homes—and since Built Green Canada introduced their BUILT GREEN® Net Zero Energy+ rating, which addresses energy and other key areas of sustainable building, Jayman has also been certifying at this level.



“It is through engagement within the industry and participation that we will see the greatest impact championing real change—we're able to show what is possible through Built Green's programs.”

- Director of Corporate Purchasing, Dave Krasman at Jayman BUILT

Built Green certification has played a pivotal role in progressing their sustainable building practices, since enrolling their first home in 2005.

[Read more.](#)

### Finalist: Mike Cole, Sterling Homes Calgary

Mike Cole has been with Sterling over 24 years and has proven himself a visionary leader and staunch advocate for sustainable building. As the company's ambassador for Built Green third-party certification, Mike has been instrumental in driving green initiatives, not only within Sterling Homes and throughout the Calgary region, but also across Qualico in Western Canada—helping set new benchmarks for industry, while inspiring peers.



Under his guidance, Sterling Calgary adopted the Built Green standard for all homes and is now on an ambitious journey toward achieving the BUILT GREEN® Gold certification. Mike's dedication to sustainability is further evident through his pivotal role in advancing net zero home initiatives, having successfully led the completion of two net zero homes in the past three years. His innovative approach and commitment to energy-efficient design were also key factors in Sterling Homes winning the BILD Alberta Energy Efficiency Award for the Pierce show home in Vermilion Hill in the fall of 2024.

In addition, Mike has contributed significantly to the Drake Landing Solar Project as a board member, further underlining his commitment to sustainable energy solutions. His ongoing involvement in technical committees for both BILD Alberta and Qualico underscores his expertise and passion for building practices that are not only environmentally responsible but also technologically advanced.



“I'm driven by the real results I see when we build sustainably. For me, it's about doing things the right way—making sure our homes are solid, energy-efficient and built to last. I see sustainable building as a way to be an innovator at Sterling Homes while staying true to our values of quality and customer care.”

- Director of Operations, Mike Cole at Sterling Homes Calgary

Mike has been inspired by hands-on folks in our industry who put their money where their mouth is—and by the success of their work through the Built Green program. He says that working on projects where you can feel the difference—like their net zero homes and award-winning Pierce show home—keeps him going. Built Green gives them a rock-solid way to back up their work. It's not just a label; it's a mark of trust that shows their customers they're getting the best value out there. Though Mike has been a driving force, he acknowledges this work is part of the team's journey—built on hard work, innovation and real care for their community.



At the end of the day, Mike says he's here to show that sustainable building is practical, cost-effective and a win-win for everyone. Built Green has become a big part of Sterling's message because it's proven that sustainable practices can really work in the real world. He feels it sets them apart in a crowded market and gives them extra leverage when talking to customers and partners. [Read more.](#)



*The Innovation Award's purpose is to recognize creative ways sustainable building is happening and progressing industry: those with a new approach that challenges status quo. It's in this spirit that Built Green's programs were originally developed and continue to evolve.*

## Carbon Wise

**Carbon Wise** is a woman-led Benefit company with a deep understanding of policy and regulations; their team of expert building science specialists provides technical consulting services, which accelerate the transition to low-carbon construction. Their approach bridges the gap between climate policy and on-the-ground construction practices, equipping stakeholders with the tools to implement sustainable solutions.

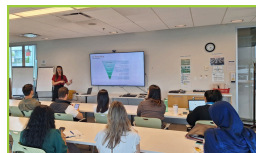


A leader in energy and carbon modeling, they specialize in optimizing operational energy consumption and reducing embodied emissions in the construction sector. Meanwhile, they've made significant steps in GHG emissions reduction, while delivering comprehensive analysis and consultation on renewable energy solutions, low-embodied carbon material selection, and sustainable construction practices.

They work with a range of projects, from Part 9 buildings to mid-rise and high-rise structures, as well as in policy collaborations with municipalities. Carbon Wise has championed Net-Zero houses, Passive-House designs, low embodied emissions deep renovations, and new construction.

A recent standout project is one of the Maverick's 2025 winners, the first Zero Carbon Certified home in Canada, to be certified by the Living Building Institute and Built Green Canada at BUILT GREEN® Net Zero Energy+, setting a new standard for sustainability, incorporating metrics for both operational and embodied emissions. This home will be involved in multiple local and international studies.

One of Carbon Wise's core values is a strong commitment to knowledge sharing—certainly with their builders, but also with the wider industry: creating a domino effect that extends far beyond their own projects. They hold themselves to a higher standard of commitment beyond profit, ensuring their work drives meaningful, lasting change. Taking care to share insights, such as through publicly available case studies and involvement in policy development, Carbon Wise ensures their innovative work is widely applicable and accessible to other stakeholders. They're also actively engaged in educating industry professionals through presentations, workshops, and conferences, fostering knowledge exchange and accelerating the adoption of sustainable practices (Home Show, Buildex, Passive House Accelerator and Cecobois in Quebec).



“ We are driven by an urgent commitment to addressing climate change and decarbonizing the built environment. ”

- Founder and Principal, Elisabeth Baudinaud of Carbon Wise

The team's expertise and leadership in whole-building Life Cycle Assessments (wbLCA) earned the BC Embodied Carbon Awards in 2023 and 2024. Their pioneering work includes authoring some of Canada's first LCA case studies, such as comparing life cycle benefits of renovation versus new construction, highlighting the substantial carbon reduction potential of low-carbon renovations. [Read more.](#)

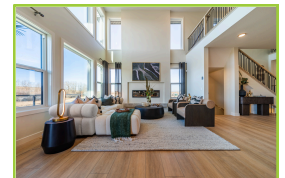
## Amber Model in Sirocco, Sterling Homes Calgary

The Amber Model in Sirocco is a net zero showhome that represents a fusion of luxury and sustainability in residential living. Its net-zero design features a full \$40,000 solar array, high-efficiency Voltex Hybrid Heat Pump Water Heater, and a Daikin One+ Smart Thermostat, which collectively ensure significant monthly energy savings, while the enhanced insulation and triple-pane windows also help ensure superior thermal comfort. The exterior is fortified with hail and fire-resistant Hardie materials, combining durability with visual appeal. The return on investment is evident through the reduction in utility bills and increased home value.



Certified BUILT GREEN® Net Zero Energy+, this third-party verification underscores the home's delivery on outstanding energy efficiency, health and comfort. Its innovative features benefit homeowners through enhanced living standards and financial savings, while contributing positively to the environment—a win-win scenario that paves the way for future developments in sustainable housing.

Inside, the Amber Model spans 2,516 square feet and is thoughtfully laid out with a private flex room adaptable for use as a home office or main floor bedroom. The open-to-below floor plan accentuates the spacious great room and upstairs bonus room, enhancing the home's grandeur. The luxurious primary suite, complemented by up to four additional bedrooms and a tandem garage, offers ample space for comfortable living.



The Amber Model in Sirocco has profoundly reshaped **Sterling Calgary's** approach to sustainable building, setting a new benchmark for integrating luxury with eco-consciousness. Their aim was to challenge the outdated notion that eco-friendly homes must sacrifice comfort or aesthetic appeal. The success of the Amber Model proves that advanced, sustainable technologies can be seamlessly incorporated into high-end designs, redefining the status quo.



“ We are driven by a commitment to reducing environmental impact and meeting the growing demand for sustainable homes. This project highlights our dedication to leading the industry towards greener practices. ”

- Director of Operations, Mike Cole at Sterling Homes Calgary

From a company perspective, this project has underscored the importance of investing in sustainable technologies and has motivated Sterling to continually explore and integrate such innovations in future developments. They have adopted a holistic approach, considering not only the immediate environmental benefits but also the long-term health, comfort, and financial advantages for homeowners.

They've also learned that consumer education plays a vital role in the success of sustainable homes. [Read more.](#)

*The Transformational Award's purpose is to recognize the impact sustainability practices can have in driving change—enabling fundamental progress, whether that be project-specific or a company refocus. These achievements embody Built Green's mission to progress industry.*

## Finalist: Core Performance by Jayman BUILT

One of the finalists for the Transformational Award is “Core Performance”, the home building model offered as a standard by [Jayman BUILT](#) in Alberta.

Core Performance has done just that for this production builder. This is a set of energy-efficient inclusions in every single-family home Jayman builds today—which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and annual energy costs. Its energy-efficient features include 10 solar panels, a 96 per cent high-efficiency two-stage furnace, an active heat recovery ventilator, a tankless hot water heater, foundation wrap, triple-pane R-6 windows and a ultra-violet light air purification system. These features save homeowners up to \$582 annually on energy costs and prevent 5.09 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. These homes are 37 per cent more efficient than the Alberta Building Code.



The fact that this impressive range of features is standard for a production builder results in a considerable cumulative environmental impact—take their solar contributions, for example. With 700-800 homes built annually, each with 10 solar panels, since 2019, Jayman has installed over 10 megawatts of solar power across 4,000 homes in Alberta, saving over 16,501 metric tonnes of carbon emissions. If the panels were in one location as a solar farm, they would cover 40 acres—significantly contributing to Alberta's electrical grid and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2024 alone, this system reduced greenhouse gas emissions by over 5,776 tonnes, with numbers continuing to grow, as each year they add 9,000 to 10,000 more solar panels!



It was in 2005 that Jayman BUILT began to implement changes to the way their homes were constructed—introducing energy efficient, sustainable features that benefit homeowners and the environment. The transformation of their homes has been guided primarily by Built Green Canada's certification program and the need to meet future building code requirements. Beginning in 2005, certifying all single-family homes through Built Green, Jayman was able to garner a better understanding of the program's checklist standards and how they could meet and exceed them. Each year, they incorporated improvements to energy efficiency, mechanical systems, indoor air quality, water conservation and waste reduction, which built upon each other and led to future innovations.



“ Our mandate has always been to lead the industry in innovation and sustainability, while still providing homeowners with a high-quality home that they can afford. One of our core values is that being second isn't good enough; our drive to lead industry forward has transformed not only our own company but impacted wider industry. ”

- Chief Operating Officer, Dave Hooge at Jayman BUILT

For instance, in 2007, they developed the “Quantum Wall” featuring exterior rigid foam insulation, providing superior energy savings and earning important points on the Built Green certification checklist. [Read more.](#)

## Finalist: Prominent Homes

While the company has long had a basic understanding of sustainability concepts in the built environment, their focus was on traditional methods, with limited consideration for energy performance,



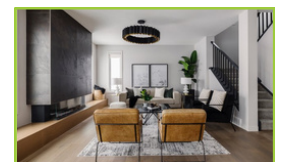
environmental impact or long-term benefits for homeowners. However, since 2023, [Prominent Homes](#) has embarked on a transformational journey, redefining their approach to homebuilding. As they expanded production from 50 homes to 140, they committed to having all homes go through BUILT GREEN® certification. Today, it's their standard to build beautiful homes that are also optimized for reduced energy consumption, improved indoor air quality and a lower environmental impact—reducing their carbon footprint but also creating healthier, more comfortable homes for their customers.

Sustainability is now woven into their operations, starting with their hiring practices for trades and suppliers—they seek partners who commit to eco-friendly practices and high-performance materials. And their commitment to sustainability has fostered stronger collaborations with these partners who share their vision. The collective drive has accelerated their learning curve and established a network of expertise that benefits every project. This rigorous selection ensures every element—from concrete to framing, HVAC systems to low-VOC paints and water-saving fixtures—meets their elevated green standards.



Meanwhile, having an Energy Advisor perform blower door tests on every home helps Prominent Homes test and tighten their envelope and energy systems. They value data-driven decision-making, which fits perfectly with third-party testing and certification. By consistently tracking and analyzing performance metrics, such as blower door test results, energy consumption and material efficiency, they have gained critical insights that inform their continuous improvement efforts. These metrics have been instrumental in identifying both successes and areas for further innovation, ensuring that they remain accountable and agile.

This comprehensive transformation marks a significant shift. Today, Prominent Homes' sustainable building practices are integral to their business strategy, driving measurable change and setting a new benchmark for responsible homebuilding. As a next step, they are exploring net zero ready and net zero homes, examining the processes and innovations needed to achieve these goals.



“ Our transition toward sustainable building is more than a change in construction methods; it is a transformation in mindset, operations and long-term vision. This journey has reinforced our belief that sustainability is not just an industry trend but a responsibility that extends beyond individual projects to impact entire communities and future generations. ”

- Operations Manager, Harman Dhillon at Prominent Homes Ltd.

Prominent Homes' decision to embrace sustainable building was motivated by a long-term vision of a better future for their customers, the industry and our planet. [Read more.](#)



## Meet Our Judges

These industry experts have been hand-picked and bring extensive knowledge to the judging process. Their diversity in experience and geographic markets bring unique perspectives with wide-ranging scope to our panel.

A big thank you to our esteemed judges for their invaluable contribution. As industry leaders, their expertise and dedication have been critical in recognizing building excellence. We're grateful for their time and commitment!

### Sydney Bond – Rescom, Edmonton, Alta.



Sydney Bond is the Vice President at **Rescom Homes** in Edmonton, where she brings over a decade of experience in building and renovating complex, high-performance homes. As Chair of BILD Alberta and a former President of BILD Edmonton Metro, Sydney is deeply invested in advancing industry standards, particularly in sustainable building and thoughtful design. She thrives on tackling the unique challenges of custom home construction, always looking for ways to push the industry forward through collaboration, innovation and a healthy dose of realism.

### Martin Chabiera – PATH Developments, Vancouver, B.C.



As a Construction Manager at **PATH Developments** in Vancouver, Martin is instrumental in realizing the company's vision of creating safe, sustainable and welcoming communities where families can flourish for generations. He helps ensure that each home built by PATH Developments reflects these values, overseeing every detail of construction with precision and care.

### Roger Chayer – Talus Green Building Consulting, Vancouver, B.C.



Owner of Talus Green Building Consulting, a reputable firm providing expertise and guidance for sustainable energy solutions out of Vancouver, Roger is dedicated to advancing sustainable building practices in the residential building industry. He also serves as a BUILT GREEN® High Density Verifier and contributes his expertise as a valued member of Built Green's Technical Standards Committee.

### Luke Dolan – Capital Home Energy, Vancouver, B.C.



Luke Dolan, Owner, CEO and Senior Energy Advisor at **Capital Home Energy** in Vancouver, has over 30 years of experience in the construction industry. Beyond his company's work as a Service Organization and energy design firm, Luke is also a Building Science Instructor with Canadian Home Builders Association, as well

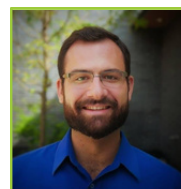
as the founder of the trade association for Energy Advisors: Canadian Association of Consulting Energy Advisors, where he remains very active and sits on the Board of Directors. Luke has a passion for sustainable building, the environment and a healthy active lifestyle.

### Cooper Le – 4 Elements Integrated Design Ltd, Calgary, Alta.



Cooper is a multifaceted professional serving as the Senior Manager, Master Energy Advisor, and Senior Technologist at **4 Elements Integrated Design Ltd.** in Calgary. With extensive expertise in rating systems like EnerGuide, Energy Star, LEED, Built Green and more, Cooper plays a pivotal role in driving the success of 4 Elements, a company distinguished for its services and focus on sustainable building in both residential and commercial sectors.

### Isaiah Littley – Introba, Toronto, Ont.



Isaiah is an Intermediate Building Analyst at **Introba** in Toronto. He collaborates with clients to develop living systems that are not only smart, secure and resilient, but also connected to their communities and the planet. Through his expertise, he contributes to the creation of spaces that uplift communities, protect the environment and adapt to the evolving needs of the future.

### Braedyn Stockfish – Entuitive, Ottawa, Ont.



Braedyn Stockfish, Sustainable Building Specialist at **Entuitive** in Ottawa, has nearly a decade of experience in the commercial, industrial and institutional sectors—specializing in energy management, sustainability and building operations. He also serves on BOMA BEST Technical Committee. Working to bridge the gap between technology, people and the planet, Braedyn believes progress is measured not just by the efficiency of our buildings but by the well-being of the individuals who inhabit them and the integration of these structures into their environment.

### Dave Turnbull – Enerspec Consulting, Edmonton, Alta.



President, Owner and Lead Energy Advisor at **Enerspec Energy Consulting** in Edmonton. Through his extensive experience, Dave provides straightforward solutions to complex challenges for builder clients; boards; committees; and in his teaching capacity, delivering webinars, presentations and classes. He is Past Chair and now serves as Director Emeritus and Technical Advisor to Built Green's Board of Directors. As Past Director of BILD Edmonton Metro, he remains on their Government Relations Committee, and sits on the City of Edmonton's Emissions Neutral Buildings Industry Advisory Group.

### Kelly Williams – Sterling Homes Edmonton, Alta.



Kelly Williams, Design and Sustainability Manager at **Sterling Homes Edmonton**, has a wealth of experience in the construction industry, spanning over 30 years. She is passionate about residential design and building energy efficient homes and manages Sterling's drafting and design department. She also led the implementation of the BUILT GREEN® program at Sterling and has spearheaded various sustainability initiatives—through this work, she was the inaugural Maverick Ambassador winner.

## Meet Our Sponsors

As we profile our Mavericks and their achievements, we're spotlighting our sponsors for their generosity in helping to make this happen. Each is a leader supporting sustainable building, and we applaud their efforts. We are truly grateful for their partnership and welcome you to learn more about their important contributions to our industry.

### Jayman BUILT Co-Title Sponsor



Jayman BUILT is Built Green Canada's founding member, a long-time advocate for sustainable building, where every home is BUILT GREEN® certified. For 45 years, Jayman has helped customers find their dream homes. As one of Alberta's most reputable builders, their industry-leading approach has resulted in an entirely new standard of quality.

With Jayman's Core Performance package, a green home is their standard, not optional. A Jayman home saves homeowners money, protects their health and helps the planet. They built their reputation on these principles, and they're proud to lead the industry in sustainability—always innovating to improve the quality and efficiency of their homes, creating a path to net zero.

This is a builder with a depth of industry experience, using the latest technology, innovations and leading-edge products to consistently deliver quality, value and a more sustainably built home.

**jaymanbuilt** As the Title Co-Sponsor of these awards, alongside SkyFire Energy, we are thrilled to celebrate the winners and all the finalists who are driving innovation in sustainable construction. Congratulations to everyone making a difference in the #BuiltGreenCommunity! 🌱💚... more

### SkyFire Energy Co-Title Sponsor



SkyFire Energy Inc. is Western Canada's leading solar contractor and an employee-owned Certified B Corp. Since 2001, SkyFire has pioneered solar energy, designing and installing thousands of grid-connected and off-grid systems across Western and Northern Canada.

With over 200 MWp of solar PV systems designed and installed—and an O&M team servicing more than two GWp of utility-scale solar and BESS projects—SkyFire has played a key role in shaping the renewable energy landscape. Its portfolio spans residential, commercial and complex photovoltaic projects, working with over 20 utilities across Canada. The team includes Professional Engineers, Certified Photovoltaic Technicians, and CSA Certified Construction Electricians (Solar PV Systems Certified).

Committed to using business as a force for good, SkyFire Energy's Power Your Purpose initiative provides a fully installed solar system at no cost each year to a nonprofit, helping them cut energy expenses and reinvest in their vision.

This team is on a mission—to lead the solar industry toward a stronger, healthier, and more sustainable global community.

**skyfireenergy** Proud to be a Title Co-Sponsor for this year's @BuiltGreenCanada #MaverickAwards with @jaymanbuilt!

These awards celebrate the bold innovators pushing sustainable building forward—something we're all about. Supporting them means backing a future where solar energy and smarter building go hand in hand, creating stronger, healthier communities.



## Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Ambassador Sponsor



**Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)** is an independent, non-profit organization that collaborates with a diverse network to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaboration.

SFI believes that sustainably managed forests are critical to our collective future. They're a sustainability leader through their work in standards, conservation, community and education. Built Green Canada recognizes this and encourages the use of SFI-certified products in the BUILT GREEN® programs to help builders choose products from responsibly managed forests.

Beyond their standards, SFI requires innovative and impactful **conservation research** that builds knowledge and improves forest outcomes. With SFI's award-winning educational initiative, **Project Learning Tree** and Project Learning Tree Canada, they're work to advance environmental literacy, and career pathways, building the next generation of leaders that will take responsibility for solving environmental challenges and market needs.

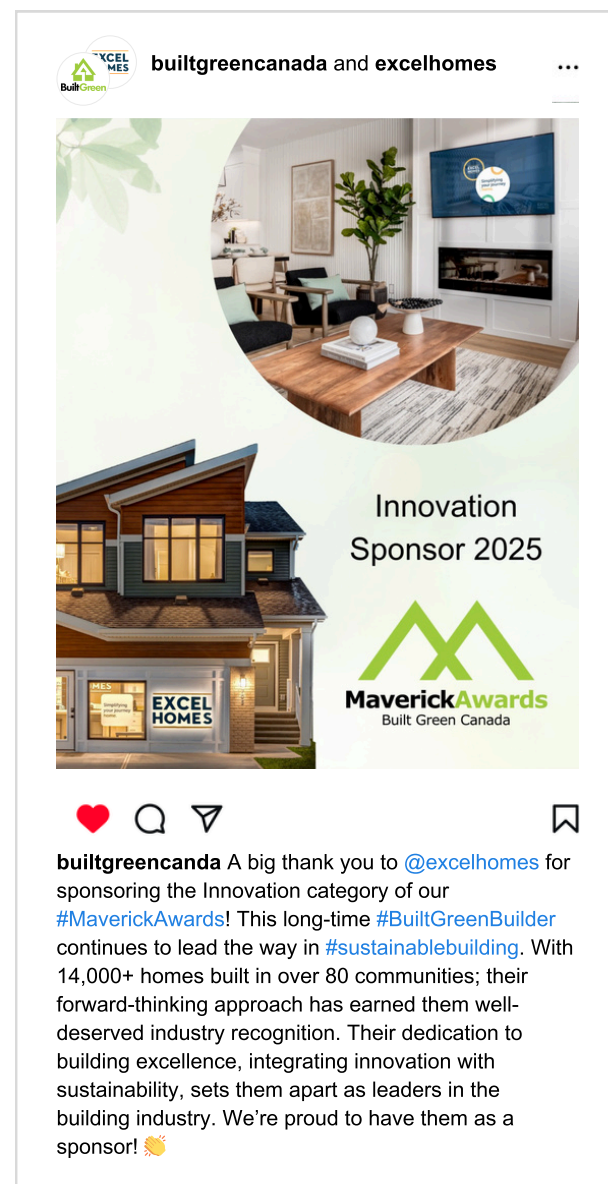
This is an organization whose dedication to sustainability provides a pathway for our industry to make more ethical, responsible choices: for our builds, for our environment and for our shared future.

## Excel Homes, Innovation Sponsor



**Excel Homes** is a long-time Built Green builder who has been voluntarily verifying their energy performance and green features through our certification since 2007, making them one of the earliest adopters of our sustainable building programs—they're leaders embracing better building practices. Over the past 35-plus years, they have built 14,000+ homes in over 80 communities and received many awards for design and industry excellence.

Their extensive experience has helped them develop a refined homebuying experience that values their clients' time, simplify major decisions and minimizes any stress that can come with building a new home. In alignment with Built Green's values, they carefully consider the impact of their actions and choices, aspiring to lead industry in areas such as safety and sustainability. This builder is dedicated to building excellence, third-party certification and progressing industry!



## Alberta Real Estate Foundation, Transformational Sponsor



The **Alberta Real Estate Foundation** is a nonprofit grant-making organization that supports and strengthens Alberta's real estate industry. They're on a mission to make strategic investments, form partnerships and support initiatives that benefit Albertans through the real estate industry in all its forms.

They fund projects across a diverse range of initiatives designed to bolster the work of the industry, government, as well as land and built environments. In the built environment, they pay special attention to housing affordability, energy efficiency and healthy communities. Since their inception, they've invested over \$31 million to over 800 initiatives across Alberta!

The Foundation's purpose is to promote and undertake: the education of related professionals and the public in respect of the real estate industry; law reform and research in respect of the real estate industry; other projects and activities to advance and improve the real estate industry.

This is an organization dedicated to a stronger real estate industry and a stronger Alberta.

## Mavericks in the News



2025 Maverick Awards-related media coverage was picked up by a number of outlets, including:

Business Journal, Calgary Herald, Calgary Sun, Canadian Family, Canadian Industry Online, Canadian Insider, Construction Insider, Cochrane Edge, Construction Connect Canada, Construction Links Network, Edmonton Journal, Edmonton Sun, Globe & Mail, Madison's Lumber Reporter, Masthead, MSN, Online Business Canada, Ottawa Times, Toronto Business Journal, Weekly Voice, Western Built, Yahoo Finance and more.



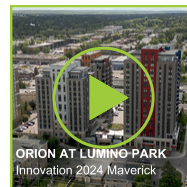
*Watch for featured videos on our Mavericks' winners!*

To celebrate our Maverick Awards winners, we produce professionally developed videos that highlight their outstanding achievements. These videos are featured across our social media platforms and integrated into paid campaigns, helping to amplify their work and inspire others in the industry. Keep an eye out for videos coming out later this year—and see our 2024 winners' videos below!

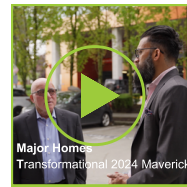
## Our 2024 Maverick Awards Winners



Kelly Williams championed company-wide BUILT GREEN® adoption, while rallying trades and suppliers for full activation, driving Sterling Homes Edmonton to become the next generation of sustainable production builders.



Kanas Corporation's Orion at Lumino Park in Calgary is the tallest ICF building in Western Canada, and certified BUILT GREEN® Platinum, with a state-of-the-art cogeneration system providing 534 KW of electricity to the development.



Major Homes, originally a traditional builder, underwent a fundamental evolution, guided by the BUILT GREEN® program to become a leading energy and sustainability focused builder in Greater Vancouver, and catalyst to the custom home building sector.



The Built Green Team

**builtgreencanada and arefabca** ...

**MaverickAwards**  
Built Green Canada

**Transformational Sponsor 2025**

**Alberta Real Estate Foundation**

Thank you to @arefabca for sponsoring the Transformational category of our #MaverickAwards! As a non-profit grantmaker that supports and strengthens Alberta's real estate industry, they fund a diverse range of projects, investing over \$31 million in 800 initiatives that advance real estate leadership, the built environment, and support sustainable land development. In the built environment, they pay special attention to housing affordability, energy efficiency, and healthy communities... more